DAIRY CATTLE BREEDS
MATCHING GAME

When we talk about cattle, there are three types of cattle: dairy, beef, and dual-purpose. Dairy cattle's purpose is to produce milk for human consumption. Beef cattle are raised to produce meat for human consumption. And last but not least, dual-purpose breeds are breeds that are used for milk and meat production. When we just look at dairy cattle, more than 97% of all American dairy cattle are composed of just seven dairy breeds. Listed below are the seven breeds, most popular to least popular.

Seven Major Dairy Breeds in the United States + % of breed in total US Dairy Cattle population

1. Holstein (86%)
2. Jersey (8%)
3. Red and White (2%)
4. Brown Swiss (0.8%)
5. Ayrshire (0.2%)
6. Guernsey (0.2%)
7. Milking Shorthorn (0.1%)
   Other or Crossbred Breeds (2.7%)

Within this activity, you will be working with the seven major dairy breeds that are within the United States. If you look at the next page, you need to match the traits that are on the right with the correct dairy breed on the left. This might be a little challenging, so take your time and do proper research on these breeds. At the end, you and your teacher will discuss the answers. Good luck!

SULLIVAN SUPPLY
The Advantage
S/S

Holstein

This breed comes in 2nd when we compare to size, and they are a distinct grey-brown color.

Jersey

This breed's milk is the most distinctive as it is golden in color due to it being high in milk solids and is also high in beta-carotene.

Red and White

This breed produces on average 25,000 pounds of milk per production cycle, making them the highest producing breed by weight.

Brown Swiss

This breed originated in Scotland and was once well-known for it's long horns — which could grow up to two or more feet in length.

Ayrshire

This breed is originally one of the first dual-purpose breeds and were developed in the United Kingdom.

Guernsey

This breed has the highest milkfat content within their milk.

Milking Shorthorn

This breed closely resembles the Holstein breed.

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